



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



ELLSWORTH AIR AND SPACE

The Ellsworth Air & Space Show will be held May 14-15, 2022. The show will feature aerial acts from some of the greatest airframes in the military inventory.

Featuring the Navy Blue Angels, this 2-day event is free and open to the public and will highlight the past, present, and future of military aviation technology.

This is the first time the air show has been held since 2015.

The events will celebrate the 80th anniversary for the base, the 80th anniversary for the Doolittle Raid, 35 years of B-1 Operations at the base, and the 75th birthday of the Air Force. It's also the first airshow since the Air Force announced it will be the main operating base for the B-21 Raiders.



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You can learn more about the air show at: <https://www.ellsworthairshow.com/>.

IF ONLY GRIEF HAD A ROAD MAP

About the Author: Whitney Schroeder is the Adolescent Occupational Therapist at HSC and provides individual OT services group programming including grief group.

Wouldn't it be ideal if we could tell Siri to pull up the quickest route out of grief? Avoiding all major road-blocks, intersections, and traffic. To be able to have a smooth ride and hear her soothing voice say, "you have arrived." Unfortunately, Siri isn't equipped for this. Sometimes I think we feel the same way, unequipped for the journey that is grief. There are times we don't even realize the ways grief affects areas of our daily life.

Often individuals find their sleep patterns, eating habits, temperament, and interests have changed.

A common question that is asked is "Will I always feel this way?" The answer to that question is-not simple. Grief was once explained to me like this. If you were to draw a square, then draw a circle inside that square, the circle is your grief and the square represents your everyday life, your feelings, and your pain. At first the circle is big, and it feels like it is always touching the square. Over time the circle begins to become smaller but can still roll its way to the edge of the square knocking us off the course we thought we had found.

We have a picture of our grief - a road that is not clearly laid out. But how do we keep living while simultaneously trying to navigate it? The key is to start by acknowledging your grief little by little. It can feel like an impossible road to travel. If there could be any good news with grief, it is that you are not alone. Although each grief journey is unique, crossing paths with another person that is trying to navigate the journey often gives those who grieve hope.

No, Siri is not equipped to pull up the direct route through grief. But you are. Will the journey have peaks and valleys? Of course. I encourage you to reflect on your grief and see how it has affected your daily life. Take the steps to start your grief journey. You are the designer of this journey. Small consistent steps equate to big changes, don't be overwhelmed; just start.

- Some practical daily ideas to start designing your grief road map include taking inventory of your daily routine. Have you had major changes in your sleeping and eating patterns?
- Do you need to consult professional help? Due to the complexity that comes with grief, getting professional help is a great place to start. Other options include joining a grief group and engaging in activities that provide you healthy ways to cope.
- When the journey allows, remember the way your loved one lived their life. Write down memories, cook recipes that remind you of them, look at pictures, or tell stories about them to others.

By starting the journey down the road called grief, you are taking steps towards healing and possibly providing encouragement and hope for others.

For information about available resource options, visit dss.sd.gov and click on the Behavioral Health tab. You can also visit 605Strong.com or dial 211 to reach the 211 Helpline Center. Veterans can call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.

STUDENTS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Students from Fred Assam Elementary School in Sioux Falls raised \$4,300 in a penny war and have donated it to send six veterans on a Midwest Honor Flight!

Dr Seuss once said, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." Special thanks to these students for the memories they will be giving these veterans! JOB WELL DONE!



UPDATE FROM THE STATE VETERANS HOME



Tisha Webb

We want to welcome Tisha Webb and Tamellia Brunner to the SDDVA team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home!

Originally from New Mexico, Tisha is a homemaker for the NASA and Stars and Stripes households.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, Tamellia Brunner is a certified homemaker for the Old Glory and Veterans Lane households.



Tamellia Brunner

RIB-FEST **3RD ANNUAL 2022**

Stay Saucy South Dakota

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 10TH

**MAIN ST.
ETHAN SD**
{JUST SOUTH OF MITCHELL}

**Save
the
Date**



COMPETITION DETAILS:

- Cook 15-30 Racks (Ribs Provided)
 - Prize \$\$\$ will be awarded to:
 - Top 3 Judged Spots
 - Top 3 People's Choice
- (Taste, Texture, and Appearance!)

\$100 Entry Fee Per Team (100% Payback)

- if you want to cook just for fun and not enter in the prize money you can at no cost!

Email, Text or Call to Register

Matt Christopherson
mattcarter1421@gmail.com
(605) 377-8105

All Proceeds go to Helping with Horsepower 501 3c | Non Sanctioned Event

VA WILL PROPOSE ADDING RARE CANCERS TO PRESUMED SERVICE-CONNECTED LIST AS RELATED TO MILITARY ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected disabilities](#) in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

The VA determined, through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence, there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more veterans than ever before."

The VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. The VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, the VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.



**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**

FIFTH ANNUAL HANGAR DANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 / 7P - 10P

LIVE MUSIC BY:

HOLLYWOOD'S PINUP DARLINGS

THE

Satin Dollz

EST. 2005

DOORS OPEN AT 7P / DANCE LESSONS 7:30P / LIVE MUSIC & DANCING 8P

\$35 IN ADVANCE
\$50 AT THE DOOR

ALL TICKETS INCLUDE DANCE LESSONS, 90 MINUTES OF LIVE MUSIC, AND A SILENT AUCTION

\$75 VIP TICKETS / INCLUDES A TWO-MEAT DINNER BUFFET AT 6P WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT, MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT WINE GLASS, AND GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE EVENT	1940S ATTIRE ENCOURAGED
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SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE / 1600 W RUSSELL ST / SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

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South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.



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SHERATON
Sioux Falls &
Convention Center

AMMUNITION AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The Joint Munitions Command provides blank ammunition and clips to American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, Disabled American Vietnam Veterans chapters, as well as other veterans' service organizations free of charge, to perform military funeral honors, parades, and other events.

Providing ammunition for ceremonies is a traditional mission for JMC. Since the end of World War II, the Army has been supplying ceremonial ammunition to veterans' organizations to conduct military honors for their fallen comrades.

The ceremonial rifle and ammunition program is conducted in accordance with Title 10, United States Code § 4683 (as implemented by Army Regulation 700-131).

Accepted organizations can receive one or two cases of ammunition per request. Each case has 1,240 rounds. Only organization officers can request blank ammunition and/or clips. The use of ammunition obtained from sources other than JMC is prohibited, as it may result in damage to the rifle. More importantly, it could cause harm or serious injury to the user.

Blank ammunition is produced at JMC's Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, MO. The plant makes more than one billion rounds of small arms ammunition for the US military, other government agencies, and NATO allies each year, including all types of 5.56 mm, 7.62 mm and .50- caliber ammunition.

You can download the ceremonial ammunition request form at:

[AMSJM Form 725-1 FINAL 22APR2021.pdf \(army.mil\)](#)

You can download the ceremonial ammunition clip request form at:

[AMSJM Form 725-2 JAN 2021 clips.pdf \(army.mil\)](#)

You can contact JMC at 877-233-2515 or by e-mail at

usarmy.RIA.jmc.mbx.ceremonial-requests@army.mil



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 4—USD/SBASD Free Drop-In Legal Clinic—Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—
Sioux Falls—9:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
- Mar 5—USD/SBASD Free Drop-In Legal Clinic—VFW—(520 Main Avenue)—Brookings—9:00 am—4:00
pm (CT)
- Mar 10—Crossroads—Virtual Event—5:15 pm—8:00 pm (MST)
- Mar 26—Stand Up for Women Veterans Retreat—Our Savior Lutheran Church (909) W. 33rd Street)—Sioux
Falls—8:30 am—1:30 pm (CT)
- Apr 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
- Apr 8-10—DAV of South Dakota State Convention—Rushmore Hotel and Suites (445 Mt. Rushmore Road)—
Rapid City
- Apr 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Military Heritage Alliance Building—Spirit of America Room—(1600
W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
- May 14-15—Ellsworth AFB Air Show
- Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—4-H Fairgrounds (3200 W Havens Avenue)—Mitchell
- Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride—SD Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls
- Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown
- Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
- Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls
- Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
- Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City
- Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
- Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City
- Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
- Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair
- Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin
at 8:00 am (CT)
- Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
- Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—
Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
- Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—
11:00 am (CT)



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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